(b) the anticipated shortfall if any, in the traffic earnings of Trivandrum devision due to the formation of this B.G. line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The annual traffic potential of the line is estimated to be:

(i) Outward goods traffic : 31. 45 lakh tonnes

(ii) Inward goods traffic : 11.45 lakh tonnes

(iii) Passenger traffic : 60.45 lakh passengers.

(c) Nil.

Link train service between Varanasi and Chhapra

2725. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a link train service between Varanasi and Chhapra railway stations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that passengers are facing problems as there is no proper link express train linking the two towns; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Varanasi and Chhapra are already connected by 5 pairs of direct Metre Gauge trains.

Establishment of the Sambalpur Railway Division at Sambalpur

2726. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far for establishing the Sambalpur Railway division at Sambalpur;

(b) what is the estimated cost thereof; and what are the reasons for delay, if any;

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed;

(d) the year-wise fund so far provided for the purpose; and

(e) whether the land acquisitions work for the project has been completed; if not, the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) About 14 per cent.

(b) Rs. 450 lakhs. Work is being undertaken in phases, commensurate with availability of funds.

(c) Time of completion will depend upon the availability of funds.